

By: Patrick

S.B. No. 877

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing the Citizens' Star of Texas Award.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 3106.001, Government Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (4) to read as follows:

(4) "Next of kin" means the relative in the nearest degree of relationship to a deceased person, including the person's spouse, child, parent, or sibling.

SECTION 2. Chapter 3106, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 3106.0041 to read as follows:

Sec. 3106.0041. CITIZENS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD. (a) The Citizens' Star of Texas Award shall be awarded to:

(1) a private citizen who is seriously injured while aiding or attempting to aid a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical first responder in the performance of the duties of the officer, firefighter, or first responder; and

(2) the surviving next of kin of a private citizen who is killed or sustains a fatal injury while aiding or attempting to aid a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical first responder in the performance of the duties of the officer, firefighter, or first responder.

(b) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee under Section 3106.002, the Firefighters' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee under Section 3106.003, and the Emergency

1 Medical First Responders' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee  
2 under Section 3106.004, as applicable, shall advise the governor on  
3 the issuance, design, and presentation of the Citizens' Star of  
4 Texas Award.

5 SECTION 3. Section 3106.007, Government Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 3106.007. RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD. (a) Any person  
8 who has personal knowledge that a peace officer, firefighter, or  
9 emergency medical first responder has been killed or seriously  
10 injured in the line of duty, or that a federal law enforcement  
11 officer or special agent has been killed or seriously injured while  
12 performing duties in this state to assist a state or local law  
13 enforcement agency, may submit that information in writing to a  
14 committee under this chapter.

15 (b) The head of an agency that employs a peace officer,  
16 firefighter, or emergency medical first responder who has knowledge  
17 of a private citizen described by Section 3106.0041(a) and a state  
18 legislator representing the district in which the private citizen  
19 resides may submit information about the private citizen in writing  
20 to a committee under this chapter.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.